

2003 (H.R. 1828) because it holds Syria accountable for the serious international security problems it has caused in the Middle East. Specifically, H.R. 1828 calls on Syria to halt its support for terrorism, end its occupation of Lebanon, stop its development of weapons of mass destruction, and cease its illegal importation of Iraqi oil and illegal shipments of weapons and other military items to Iraq.

Knowing the importance of this bill, I have been a long-time supporter of H.R. 1828. As such, I would have voted in favor of its passage and will continue to work to ensure it is signed into law as soon as possible.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF STEPHEN WYATT

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, the grim realities of the war in Iraq came home to the Fourth District this week with the death of Private First Class Stephen E. Wyatt, 19, of Kilgore, Texas. Stephen died on October 13 in Balad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was in a convoy that was hit by an improvised explosive device and small arms fire. He was assigned to C Battery, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Sill, Oklahoma and had been in Iraq since April.

Stephen enlisted in the Army on his 18th birthday, having expressed his desire to join the military at an early age. He looked forward to the opportunity to serve his country, to travel and broaden his horizons, and to pursue a higher education degree through the Army. Stephen was a 2002 graduate of Kilgore High School, where his teachers described him as hard working, determined, and likeable. He returned to his high school for a visit in the spring before being deployed to Iraq. While there, he spoke to a government class about how well he liked the military, and he encouraged students to sign up if they were interested.

Stephen was described as an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting and fishing. His ultimate goal would have been to pursue his interest in wildlife preservation. Those aspirations ended on October 13 on the battle front in Iraq.

Our prayers go out to his family and friends. His wife, Kelly Wyatt, is a service member stationed in Hawaii. They were married on Thanksgiving, 2002. His father, Charles Wyatt, and stepmother Lilmah reside in Kilgore. His mother is deceased. Friends and residents of Kilgore responded to his death with an outpouring of sympathy. Mayor Joe Parker signed a proclamation honoring Stephen, asking that flags in Kilgore be flown at half-staff for a week.

Stephen's death is a tragic loss to his family and friends—and to all of us who mourn the loss of one so young who gave his life in defense of our Nation. We owe a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid to Stephen and all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, generation after generation, in defense of the freedoms that we enjoy today. Without their service, and their willingness to place themselves in the line of fire, America would not be the great Nation that we know today.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today in the House of Representatives, let us do so by honoring Stephen E. Wyatt and extending our deepest condolences to his family and friends. America is free today because of the sacrifices of such young American heroes. Stephen Wyatt is one of those heroes, and we will never forget him.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE BARBARA DAVIS CENTER FOR CHILDHOOD DIABETES

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding organization. The Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Fitzsimons Campus in Denver, Colorado provides care and support for children with Type I diabetes and their families. For their diligent work and extraordinary commitment to excellence, I wish to pay tribute to the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes here today.

Since 1980, the Davis Center has worked tirelessly to meet the needs of countless children throughout Colorado and the world who suffer from Type I, or Childhood On-Set, diabetes. The Center's clinics have received worldwide recognition for their care of those affected by this debilitating disease. In addition, the Center is a first-class teaching and research facility on the forefront of the investigation into the cause, treatment, and elimination of diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes is relentless in its efforts to treat children with diabetes, support their families, and find ways to prevent this devastating disease. For many years, the Center has proudly served the children of Colorado, our nation, and the world. The workers at the center have dedicated themselves to bettering the lives of those affected by diabetes. They are true heroes and I am honored to recognize their work here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, on October 15, I inadvertently did not vote on rollcall vote 543, the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act (H.R. 1828). I supported this amendment.

HONORING WILLIAM DANIEL BROWN

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2003

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, on October 12, 2003, Nevada lost a friend and our nation lost

a true patriot, when the Silver State's oldest veteran, William Daniel Brown passed away at 109 years old. Mr. Brown lived a long, rich life filled with many unique experiences. I had the pleasure to meet this wonderful, mild man and to watch as he was honored for his bravery on the battlefield in the First World War.

A grandson of slaves, Willie was born in a log cabin on August 23, 1894 in Cuero, Texas. He grew up in rural America, ate only what he and his family planted and harvested, attended school in a one-room school house, and learned at a young age what it meant to work hard. In 1918, Mr. Brown, a man of peace, left Texas when President Wilson called on him to serve his country in World War I. Upon his arrival in France, he fought with other black soldiers under French units because the United States Army was still segregated. "I was assigned to repair barbed wire. I'd fix it at night, and the Germans would shoot it up during the day and I'd go back at night and fix it again," he recalled.

After the war, Willie, as his friends called him, returned to Cuero and made a living doing odd jobs around town. In 1935, he married Louise and they moved to California to start anew life together. In California, he worked in an old soldier's home for \$5 a day, but found better work hauling freight for the Pacific Motor Trucking Co. until he retired. After the loss of his first wife, he married again in 1960 and enjoyed a happy life with his second wife Lucille, until her death in 1980. Although he never had children of his own, he was surrounded by the love and loyalty of his 30 nieces and nephews throughout his life.

Thirty years ago, Willie moved to Las Vegas, where his niece, Jennie Jefferson, cared for him. Even after he had surpassed the century mark, Willie continued to be active in the Las Vegas community and attended the New Jerusalem Baptist Church. As Nevada's oldest veteran, he took pride riding in parades and participating in the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization.

On the 80th anniversary of the armistice, Willie was overlooked by the French government when it awarded the Legion of Honor—its highest national award—to 900 American World War I veterans who fought on French soil. After I was made aware of this by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, I worked with the French government to ensure that William Brown's service was recognized. On his 107th birthday in 2001, I was truly honored to stand with the Nellis Air Force Base Honor Guard and several Nevada veterans when the French Consul General named Mr. Brown the Chevalier of the National Order of the Legion of Honor.

On the day before Mr. Brown was awarded the medal, I spoke with him and asked if there was anything that he wanted to do that he had not done already. He replied without hesitation that he wanted to meet President Clinton. Coincidentally, Bill Clinton was visiting Las Vegas on that day and I called the Las Vegas Sun Publisher, Brian Greenspun, who called President Clinton. Without hesitation, President Clinton invited William to his hotel so that he could personally thank him for his service to our country.

The day before Mr. Brown's death, he received a U.S. Presidential Citation from President Bush for his longevity and his wartime service during World War I.

Mr. Brown lived a long and fruitful life despite facing many challenges. He had said of